



## VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

# Chastleton

## Landownership

Chastleton House: the manor house rebuilt for Walter Jones (d. 1632)



From the 8th to 11th century part of Chastleton may have belonged to Evesham abbey (Worcs.), until seized by Odo, bishop of Bayeux. Several separate Domesday estates (some of them held under Odo) subsequently coalesced under the d'Oilly lords of Hook Norton to form a large Chastleton manor, which was reduced by 12th- and 13th-century grants to Osney abbey, and by a grant of the future Brookend manor (in the north of the parish) to Eynsham abbey c.1153. That remained distinct until its break-up by the Ansleys in the 17th century, while the Osney abbey estate passed after the Reformation to the Greenwoods and then to Thomas Fothergill, whose expanded estate of almost 600 a. was dispersed in the 1780s. A further sizeable estate, focused on Kitebrook House, was amassed in the 19th century by the Chipping Norton brewer W.S. Hitchman (d. 1881), but proved short-lived. The main Chastleton manor estate, owned by the resident Joneses and Whitmore Joneses from the 17th century to the 20th, covered more than 1,200 a. in Chastleton and neighbouring Evenlode (now Glos.) in 1936, when that too was broken up, leaving no single dominant landowner. The manor house (Chastleton House), rebuilt by Walter Jones c.1607–12, was acquired for the National Trust in 1991, with c.30 acres.

## Chastleton Manor

### Ownership to 1483

By a charter of 777, King Offa of Mercia allegedly granted lands at Chastleton, Cornwell, Salford, and elsewhere to Evesham abbey. The charter itself is probably a later forgery, but may nevertheless contain a germ of truth, since six hides at Chastleton were among lands reputedly taken from the abbey by Odo (d. 1097), bishop of Bayeux.<sup>1</sup> Five Chastleton estates totalling almost six hides still belonged to Odo's fee in 1086, held by Urse d'Abetot, Ilbert de Lacy, Ralph (under Robert d'Oilly), and Anketil de Grey (under Thomas, archbishop of York), although on later evidence Anketil's three yardlands (which were attached to his nearby Salford manor) probably actually lay in Cornwell. Another five hides and three yardlands in Chastleton (unrelated to Odo's holdings) were held in 1066 by Coleman and Azur and in 1086 by the English royal servant Ælfric or Aluric, while a further 'waste' hide was held of Winchcombe abbey (Glos.) by Henry de Ferrers.<sup>2</sup>

Ælfric's Oxfordshire estates all passed to Nigel d'Oilly (d. c.1115), lord of Hook Norton,<sup>3</sup> who gave tithes in Chastleton to Gloucester abbey, and who acquired Odo's Chastleton lands perhaps through a lifetime gift.<sup>4</sup> The Winchcombe abbey hide (which was not mentioned later) was probably also absorbed into Chastleton manor, unless it was the hide which Henry of Fretherne held freely from the lord of Hook Norton in 1279.<sup>5</sup> The d'Oillys' newly consolidated manor was subsequently reduced by 12th-century grants to religious houses, Nigel's son Robert d'Oilly (d. 1142) giving Chastleton church to his new foundation of Osney abbey in 1129, and Robert's son Henry granting much of the manor's northern part (the future Brookend manor) to Eynsham abbey c.1153.<sup>6</sup> The grant to Osney may have also included the 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> hides held by Ralph in 1086, although if so they were said in 1129 to lie in Cornwell,<sup>7</sup> and have not been traced later in either parish.

<sup>1</sup> Sawyer S.112; *VCH Oxon.* I, 395; R.R. Darlington, 'Æthelwig, abbot of Evesham', *EHR* 48 (1933), 185; R.C. Van Caenegem (ed.), *Eng. Lawsuits Wm I to Ric. I, Vol. I* (Selden Soc. 106, 1990), 29–30.

<sup>2</sup> DB, ff. 156v.–157v., 161; [www.domesday.pase.org.uk](http://www.domesday.pase.org.uk) (accessed Feb. 2023); below (other estates); below, Cornwell, landownership. Winchcombe's main Oxon. manor was at Enstone: below, Enstone, landownership.

<sup>3</sup> *VCH Oxon.* VII, 126; IX, 61; XI, 185; XXI (forthcoming, Hook Norton).

<sup>4</sup> *VCH Oxon.* I, 395, reporting the 12th-cent. tradition that Odo gave his lands taken from Evesham abbey to a knight named Nigel; for tithes, below, relig. hist.

<sup>5</sup> Below (other estates).

<sup>6</sup> *VCH Oxon.* XXI (forthcoming, Hook Norton); below (Brookend; other estates); relig. hist. *VCH Oxon.* VI, 94 suggests that an estate at 'Cestertune' (given up by Eynsham abbey's founder Æthelmær in 1005) may have been in Chastleton, and that d'Oilly's grant was by way of restitution; Sawyer S.911, however, identifies it with Chesterton (Warws.).

<sup>7</sup> *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 3, 25, 51.

The overlordship of Chastleton manor descended with the Hook Norton barony until at least 1506,<sup>8</sup> but some time after 1154 Henry d'Oilly subinfeudated the manor itself to Bardulf son of Roger (also known as Bardulf of Chastleton), who was possibly his second cousin. Bardulf was succeeded before 1195 by his son Roger, and c.1230 by Roger's son Bardulf of Chastleton, a justice and royal servant,<sup>9</sup> who in 1242 held the manor as ½ knight's fee. He or a namesake was lord in 1279,<sup>10</sup> but by 1302 the manor had passed to John Trillow,<sup>11</sup> a royal clerk who became rector of Great Tew and who acquired a manor in Salford. He was succeeded in or before 1334 by his kinsman Robert Trillow (d. by 1346), the owner of an estate in North Leigh,<sup>12</sup> who in 1336 established a chantry in Chastleton parish church.<sup>13</sup> He in turn was followed by his brother Sir John (d. c.1372),<sup>14</sup> who received a grant of free warren in Chastleton in 1355,<sup>15</sup> and by Sir John's son Sir John Trillow (d. 1374), whose heir was his daughter Elizabeth.<sup>16</sup>

Elizabeth married Sir William Wilcotes (d. 1411) of North Leigh and (secondly) Sir John Blaket (d. 1430) of Icomb (Glos.).<sup>17</sup> At her death in 1445 Chastleton descended to the progeny of her first marriage: her surviving daughter Isabel, widow of John Barton, and her grandchildren William Wykeham, Elizabeth Palmer, Philippa Catesby, Richard Beaufeu, and Thomas Conyers.<sup>18</sup> Portions of the manor were acquired between 1454 and 1457 by William Brome or Brown of Holton,<sup>19</sup> and in 1469 Conyers conveyed a quarter-share to Sir Richard Harcourt.<sup>20</sup> The manor was reconsolidated soon afterwards under Philippa's husband Sir William Catesby (d. 1479), succeeded by his son William, speaker of the House of Commons and a principal councillor to Richard III.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>8</sup> e.g. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* IX, p. 184; XI, p. 354; XIX, p. 317; XXVI, p. 231; *Cal. Inq. pm Hen. VII*, III, p. 56.

<sup>9</sup> BL, Cotton MS Vespasian B XXIV, f. 48v.; *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 324–6; *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 74–5; II, p. 169.

<sup>10</sup> *Book of Fees*, II, 827, 837; *Rot. Hund.* II, 729. *Pace Oseney Cart.* IV, 324–5, there is no compelling evidence that the Bardulfs of 1242 and 1279 were different people.

<sup>11</sup> *Feudal Aids*, IV, 161, 165. Cf. TNA, E 179/161/8–10.

<sup>12</sup> H.P. Trillo, *The Trillowes of Chastleton: A Medieval Oxfordshire Family* (2011), 5–41; *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 217–22; *VCH Oxon.* XI, 241 (mistaking his date of death); XII, 221; XXI (forthcoming, Salford).

<sup>13</sup> Below, relig. hist. (Middle Ages).

<sup>14</sup> Trillo, *Trillowes of Chastleton*, 42–56; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 221; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 184; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* IX, p. 184.

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Chart.* 1341–1417, 147.

<sup>16</sup> *VCH Oxon.* XII, 221; Trillo, *Trillowes of Chastleton*, 57–75, 82.

<sup>17</sup> *Cal. Close* 1409–13, 141; 1422–9, 257, 259; *Feudal Aids*, IV, 188; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIX, pp. 317–18; *Hist. Parl.*, s.v. Wm Wilcotes, John Blaket.

<sup>18</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XXVI, pp. 230–1; Trillo, *Trillowes of Chastleton*, 66–75, 82; *Hist. Parl.*, s.v. John Blaket, John Barton.

<sup>19</sup> TNA, CP 25/1/293/72, no. 386; CP 25/1/293/73, no. 406; New College, Oxford, 12,886; cf. *VCH Oxon.* V, 171; XII, 221; XXI (forthcoming, Salford).

<sup>20</sup> TNA, CP 25/1/294/74, no. 71.

<sup>21</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, I, pp. 472, 483; *ODNB*, s.v. Catesby fam., Wm Catesby.

**Ownership 1483–1608**

*Launde priory share* In 1483 William Catesby granted a half-share of Chastleton manor to Launde priory (Leics.), which retained it until the priory's dissolution in 1539, despite alleged attempts by Catesby owners of the other half to overturn its possession by burning leases and copies of court roll issued in the prior's name.<sup>22</sup> In 1544 the king mortgaged the half-share to a group of London merchant tailors, of whom Thomas Broke owned it at his death in 1546. He left the half-share to Richard Tonge,<sup>23</sup> but Thomas's will was declared void, and it passed instead to his sister Joan Arrowsmith of Chertsey (Surrey),<sup>24</sup> who in 1550 conveyed it to Richard Andrews of Woodstock. Andrews sold it the same year to William Freeman (fl. 1579) of Batsford (Glos.),<sup>25</sup> who was dead by 1587 when his sons Thomas and Edward sold it to Robert Whitney (d. 1590), MP for Thetford (Norfolk).<sup>26</sup> His right to the half-share was upheld in 1589,<sup>27</sup> and in 1608 his son Francis, acting with Henry Whitney of Mitcham (Surrey), conveyed it Walter Jones, owner of the other half-share, who thus reunited the manor.<sup>28</sup>

*Catesby share* William Catesby was attainted and executed in 1485, after which his remaining half-share of Chastleton manor passed to his widow Margaret until it reverted to the Crown on her death in 1494.<sup>29</sup> Following the reversal of Catesby's attainder in 1495, the half-share was restored in 1496 to his son George Catesby (d. 1505) of Ashby St Ledgers (Northants.),<sup>30</sup> whose widow Elizabeth retained it with her second husband Sir Thomas Lucy (d. 1525) during the minorities of her sons William (d. 1517) and Richard Catesby. The latter was knighted in 1542,<sup>31</sup> and in 1543 settled Chastleton from after his death on his son William and on William's wife Katherine (née Willington, the widow of Richard Kempe). William predeceased his father, however, on whose death in 1553 the estate remained with Katherine and her third husband Anthony Throckmorton (d. 1587), until her own death in 1593. It passed next to her Roman Catholic grandson Robert Catesby (d. 1605), the Gunpowder Plot conspirator, whose father Sir William (d. 1598) had settled it on him and his

<sup>22</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/37–8; E24/1/F1/2; *Valor Eccl.* IV, 164–5; *VCH Leics.* II, 10–13.

<sup>23</sup> *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIX (2), p. 79; TNA, PROB 11/31/535.

<sup>24</sup> TNA, C 142/84/91; *Cal. Pat.* 1547–8, 142–3. Cf. *VCH Glos.* XII, 265.

<sup>25</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1549–51, 356, 358; 1566–9, 114; 1578–80, 81.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* 1586–7, 94; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Rob. Whitney.

<sup>27</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/37–8; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

<sup>28</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/30, 40.

<sup>29</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, I, pp. 472, 483; *ODNB*, s.v. Wm Catesby.

<sup>30</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/1; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, III, pp. 55–6.

<sup>31</sup> *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Ric. Catesby; *VCH Warws.* V, 36; OHC, E24/1/1D/2; TNA, SC 2/197/24B; SC 2/207/68; SC 2/207/91.

wife Katherine Leigh (d. 1598) at their marriage in 1592.<sup>32</sup> Catesby became heavily indebted after being fined 4,000 marks (£2,666 13s. 4d.) for his involvement in the Essex Rebellion of 1601, however, and in 1602 he and his mortgagees sold the estate to Walter Jones, a wealthy lawyer and former MP for Worcester. Despite the sale Catesby was evidently still allowed to occupy the manor house (perhaps as lessee), where he was present in January 1605.<sup>33</sup>

### **Ownership Since 1608**

From Walter Jones (d. 1632), who demolished the manor house and replaced it with Chastleton House,<sup>34</sup> the reunited manor descended in the direct male line to Henry (d. 1656), Arthur (d. 1687), Henry (d. 1688), and Walter Jones, a minor in the guardianship of his grandmother Sarah (née Eyans, d. 1698).<sup>35</sup> Coming of age in 1695, Walter made a settlement of the manor in 1697 upon his marriage to Ann Whitmore (d. 1739),<sup>36</sup> who retained control from her husband's death in 1704 until their son John's majority in 1720.<sup>37</sup> John (d. 1738) was succeeded by his younger brother Henry (d. 1761)<sup>38</sup> and by Henry's son John (d. 1813), who in the 1780s significantly enlarged his Chastleton estate with purchases from Thomas Fothergill and Henry Zachariah Jervis,<sup>39</sup> and who was followed by his brother Arthur (d. 1828). The manor then passed to John and Arthur's distant cousin John Henry Whitmore of Dudmaston Hall (Salop.), who in 1829 (as a condition of inheritance) assumed the surname and arms of Jones by royal licence.<sup>40</sup>

In 1843 J.H. Whitmore Jones owned 1,166 a. in Chastleton, and on his death in 1853 was succeeded by his son John Arthur, an epileptic in the guardianship of his mother

<sup>32</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/3, 6; TNA, E 40/12373; *Oxon. Visit.* 14–18, 120–1; A. Rosen, 'Two monuments at Little Rollright, Oxfordshire: William Blower and the Dixon family', *Oxoniensia* 70 (2005), 52; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Ric. Catesby, Geo. Throckmorton; *ODNB*, s.v. Rob. Catesby. For confusion over Katherine's date of death, below, relig. hist. (Reformn to 1789).

<sup>33</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/12–20; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Walter Jones; H.L. Turner, 'Walter Jones of Witney, Worcester, and Chastleton: rewriting the past', *Oxoniensia* 73 (2008), 31–43; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

<sup>34</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1632; TNA, PROB 11/162/656; below (manor ho.).

<sup>35</sup> OHC, E24/1/1D/42–52; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1656, 1687, 1688, 1698; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 204.59; TNA, PROB 11/391/206.

<sup>36</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptism 1674, burial 1739; OHC, E24/1/1D/53–6.

<sup>37</sup> TNA, PROB 11/479/418; OHC, E24/1/1D/59–61. John died aged 39 years: monumental inscription in church.

<sup>38</sup> TNA, PROB 11/692/222; PROB 11/867/250; OHC, E24/1/1D/62–74; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1738, 1761.

<sup>39</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1813; below (other estates). Cf. OHC, E24/1/M/1–2.

<sup>40</sup> TNA, PROB 11/1552/215; PROB 11/1751/337; OHC, E24/1/1D/77; *London Gaz.* 14 Apr. 1829, p. 688.

Dorothy (née Clutton, d. 1862).<sup>41</sup> He died in 1857, to be followed in turn by his brother William (d. 1874) and by their unmarried sister Mary Elizabeth,<sup>42</sup> who retained Chastleton House (which she let to tenants) until her death in 1915. The manor and estate itself (and the house's reversion) were settled in 1900 on her nephew Thomas Whitmore Harris, however, who that year married his cousin Irene Dickins, and changed his name by deed poll to Thomas Whitmore Whitmore Jones.<sup>43</sup> Following his death in 1917 the manor remained with Irene, who lived at Chastleton House from 1934.<sup>44</sup> In 1936 she sold most of the estate (then 1,279 a.) in lots,<sup>45</sup> retaining only c.100 a. with Chastleton House, which on her death in 1955 passed to her cousin Alan Clutton-Brock (d. 1976), an art critic, professor, and fellow of King's College, Cambridge. His widow Barbara (née Mitchell, d. 2005) sold the house in 1991 (with 30 a.) to the National Heritage Memorial Fund, acting on behalf of the National Trust, which retained the house in 2024.<sup>46</sup>

### ***Manor House (Chastleton House)***

Stone wall-footings associated with 11th- or 12th-century pottery have been excavated in the garden immediately east of the present-day Chastleton House, suggesting the presence of a substantial medieval manor house next to the church. That was probably occupied by the first Bardulf of Chastleton and his descendants, and was presumably retained or rebuilt by the resident Trillows.<sup>47</sup> No record has been found until 1574, however, when Anthony Throckmorton's 'mansion' contained heraldic 'tables' and window glass.<sup>48</sup> Robert Catesby was often resident at the house between 1595 and 1605.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> TNA, PROB 11/2174/360; OHC, tithe award; *ibid.* E24/1/E/19; E24/1/L/10; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1853, 1862; I. Hilton (ed.), *The Chastleton Diaries: Change and Continuity in the Nineteenth Century* (2011), 47.

<sup>42</sup> OHC, E24/1/W/20–1; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1857, 1874.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1915; *ibid.* Acc. 5576, Box 8/12d–f; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1911); M. Dickins, *Chastleton House* (nd, c.1935), 32. For tenants, below, social hist. (since 1800).

<sup>44</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, burials 1917; N. Cooper et al., *Chastleton House* (National Trust guidebook, 2001), 58.

<sup>45</sup> OHC, Acc. 5576, Box 8/16; *Sale Cat., Chastleton Estate* (1936): copy in *ibid.* E24/1/1D/78; *The Times*, 9 Oct. 1936; below, econ. hist. (since 1800).

<sup>46</sup> Cooper et al., *Chastleton House*, 58–9; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1939); *ODNB*, s.v. Alan Clutton-Brock, Juliet Clutton-Brock; *The Times*, 6 May 2005; [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) (accessed Feb. 2024).

<sup>47</sup> G. Marshall, 'Evidence from the Archaeological Excavations at Chastleton House' (1997): typescript report in HER, EOX162; Trillo, *Trillows of Chastleton*, *passim*.

<sup>48</sup> *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, V, A.13154; *Oxon. Visit.* 14–18.

<sup>49</sup> Below, social hist. (1500–1800).





Chastleton House from the south (left) and west (right).

Walter Jones replaced it with the present Chastleton House probably between 1607 and 1612, the latter date being inscribed on a sundial built into its south-west corner.<sup>50</sup> Constructed from marlstone rubble with limestone ashlar dressings and quoins, the house has three storeys over a basement containing the Old Kitchen, Beer Cellar, and other service rooms. Its symmetrical plan comprises a square around a small central courtyard (Dairy Court), flanked by projecting east and west staircase towers. Both the plan and the house's traditional layout and bold architectural design, with stringcourses and extravagant use of two- to four-light mullioned-and-transomed windows, recall the designs of Robert Smythson and John Thorpe, although it seems unlikely that either of those architects was directly involved here. The south entrance front is 'one of the most satisfying architectural compositions of its date',<sup>51</sup> featuring five narrow bays with stepped gables and pinnacles, three rows of five windows, and a small pediment set above an additional two-light mullioned window in the central gable. Two of the five bays step forward, the eastern one containing an oriel window lighting the ground-floor Great Hall, and the western one a porch, with the front door concealed in its eastern side and reached by a central flight of six stone steps. The five-bay north garden front is plainer and flat, except for a projecting central bay, while the east and west fronts are each of three bays, the central ones comprising the projecting embattled staircase towers.

<sup>50</sup> Unless indicated, rest of section based on: NHLE, nos. 1197988 (Chastleton House); 1053368 (stables and brewhouse); 1198045 (garden wall); 1367763 (gateway); 1001090 (park and garden) (accessed Dec. 2023); Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 247–50; Cooper et al., *Chastleton House*; Dickens, *Chastleton House*; Marshall, 'Evidence'; *Country Life*, 19 July 1902, 80–9; 25 Jan. 1919, 90–6; 1 Feb. 1919, 116–23; 19 May 1994, 98–101; 18 June 1998, 64–9.

<sup>51</sup> Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 247.



The Long Gallery (left) and Best Garden (right).

The interior has been little altered since the 17th century, and still contains paintings, furniture, and furnishings mentioned in Walter Jones's 1633 inventory (which names the individual rooms).<sup>52</sup> Several of his Elizabethan tapestries were rediscovered in 1919, but were sold in 1920–2.<sup>53</sup> Much of the elaborate Jacobean plasterwork may have been executed by craftsmen employed at Oxford colleges, including the richly moulded ceiling in the panelled Great Chamber (with a frieze below containing 24 painted roundels of Old Testament prophets and pagan sibyls), and the partly restored barrel-vaulted ceiling of the Long Gallery, which runs the entire length (22 m.) of the north front on the top floor.<sup>54</sup> Several ornate carved and painted chimneypieces and overmantels display heraldry: the arms of Walter Jones and his wife Eleanor (née Pope) in the Great Chamber, Henry Jones and his wife Anne (née Fettiplace) in the Fettiplace Room, Jones impaling Fettiplace in the Middle Chamber, and Sheldon impaling Ruding in the Sheldon Room. The Great Hall also retains its ornate Jacobean oak screens passage, with incised apotropaic marks.

A sundial dated 1649, built into the west staircase-tower's south-west corner, suggests some building work for Henry Jones (d. 1656), but otherwise few alterations seem to have been made before the late 18th century, when bolelection panelling and a corner chimneypiece were installed in the Oak Parlour perhaps by John Jones (d. 1813). He certainly undertook extensive work between 1771 and 1810 (as indicated by a series of dated rainwater heads), including rebuilding the house's east wall, erecting new chimneys on the courtyard's south-east side,<sup>55</sup> and partly removing the floors from a top storey containing the 'high chamber over the gallery' (mentioned in 1633). The roofs were also reconstructed,

<sup>52</sup> OHC, E24/1/W/2; below, social hist. (1500–1800). See also J. Marsden, 'The Chastleton inventory of 1633', *Furniture Hist.* 36 (2000), 23–42. For a 1738 inventory naming the rooms, OHC, E24/1/F2/3.

<sup>53</sup> See also *Country Life*, 9 Oct. 1920, 463–5; H.L. Turner, 'Tapestries once at Chastleton House and their influence on the image of the tapestries called Sheldon: a re-assessment', *Antiq. Jnl* 88 (2008), 313–43.

<sup>54</sup> See also C. Gapper, 'Chastleton House: the decorative plasterwork in context', in M. Airs (ed.), *The Tudor and Jacobean Great House* (1994), 101–16.

<sup>55</sup> For chimneys, see also OHC, E24/1/Y/1–2.



and covered with Westmorland slates purchased in 1793, 1803, and 1805. Further work was undertaken by John's brother Arthur (d. 1828), who in 1815 replaced the wooden floor in the Great Hall with flagstones, and whose initials appear on four further rainwater heads dated 1815 and 1818.<sup>56</sup>

Work under J.H. Whitmore Jones (d. 1853) included a new plaster ceiling and frieze in the Great Parlour (by Mr Archer of Stow-on-the-Wold) in 1829; rebuilding of the oak cantilevered east staircase (dated 1636) in 1830; and insertion of an Adamesque fireplace in the White Parlour, where oak panelling was painted white perhaps in 1855. Stained glass windows in the Great Parlour, depicting Charles I and Henrietta Maria, were given to Mary Whitmore Jones by their designer George Harris in 1877,<sup>57</sup> while later changes by Mary included transferring sections of panelling from the Long Gallery to Dower House in 1896, and commissioning her estate carpenter John Minchin and the local masons Ernest and Cecil Newman to restore the Long Gallery's plasterwork ceiling in 1902–3.<sup>58</sup> Wider emergency repairs to the house were carried out by the Ministry of Works in 1955 and by English Heritage c.1980,<sup>59</sup> followed by a longer programme of conservation for the National Trust in 1994–7. That was undertaken by the builders Linford Bridgeman of Lichfield (Staffs.), under the direction of the architects Peter Inskip and Peter Jenkins.

Outbuildings in 1633 comprised a wool-house, meal-house, brewhouse, milk-house, stable, and barn, which survive largely intact around the northern and western sides of a service yard south-west of the main house. The buildings are mostly two-storeyed and constructed from a mixture of limestone and marlstone rubble, with mullioned windows and stone-slate roofs. A detached 19th-century coach house, perhaps preserving part of the 17th-century barn, occupies the yard's east side, dividing it from the forecourt in front of the main house. The forecourt itself once incorporated a raised terrace removed before 1827, and is entered from the lane through a central round-arched Jacobean gateway of limestone ashlar, with a pediment and finials. The flanking boundary walls are mostly early 17th-century, built of rubblestone with ashlar coping.<sup>60</sup>

Gardens mainly to the north and east of the house preserve traces of their Jacobean design, particularly the eastern Best Garden, where a surviving large topiary circle may have been replanted in 1713 and 1833. The north-eastern Kitchen Garden was enclosed from an adjacent field in 1849 by J.H. Whitmore Jones, whose son Walter (d. 1872) converted the

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<sup>56</sup> Building dates (except where stated) taken from secondary sources listed above; further documentation may exist amongst uncat. estate material in OHC (Acc. 5428 and Acc. 5576).

<sup>57</sup> *Oxon. Weekly News*, 24 Oct. 1877.

<sup>58</sup> W.H. Hutton, *By Thames and Cotswold: Sketches of the Country* (1903), 242–3; TNA, RG 13/1400. The date 1904–5 for the work is often given in other sources.

<sup>59</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 24 Mar. 1955; *Country Life*, 19 May 1994, 98.

<sup>60</sup> For outbuildings, see also Oxford Archaeol. Unit, 'Chastleton House Stables: Archaeological Survey' (1993): TS report in HER, EOX5492. For forecourt, cf. Skelton, *Antiq. Oxon.* pl. 6.

northern 'Bowling Green' into croquet lawns in the 1860s. A Wilderness beyond was created by the house's then tenants the Richardsons c.1900. Small areas of parkland to the north-east and south originated in the 17th and 19th centuries respectively, the former containing two Restoration oaks said to have been planted in 1660, along with an 18th-century stand of Scots pines, and oaks grown from acorns which J.H. Whitmore Jones collected from the Royal Oak at Boscobel (Salop.) in 1852. The south park, which was only added to the estate in 1786, incorporates a lime avenue, and a dovecot which formerly belonged to the Greenwoods' adjacent mansion, and which was retained as an eyecatcher after the house's demolition.<sup>61</sup>

### Brookend Manor

Brookend manor originated in a grant of four hides (16 yardlands) to Eynsham abbey c.1153, by the lord of Chastleton Henry d'Oilly.<sup>62</sup> In 1279 the abbey held the estate from the d'Oillys' honor of Hook Norton as  $\frac{1}{4}$  knight's fee, though still as part of Chastleton manor, some 12½ yardlands being occupied by villeins and the rest as two freeholds. John Trillow (as lord of Chastleton) gave the freeholds to the abbey outright in 1329, perhaps recognizing Brookend's status as an independent manor, although no Brookend manor courts are known until later in the century.<sup>63</sup>

The abbey retained the manor until the Dissolution, and in 1539 the Crown granted it to Sir George Darcy.<sup>64</sup> In 1543 it passed to Sir Edward North, who the following year sold it to Edmund Ansley of Cornwell;<sup>65</sup> he was 'of Brookend' when he died in 1583, leaving a widow Katherine (d. 1596),<sup>66</sup> although in 1591 two thirds of her dower in the manor was sequestrated for her recusancy, and leased to the royal courtier Richard Ferris.<sup>67</sup> Ansley's heir, his underage grandson Edmund Ansley, reached his majority before 1588, and though also a recusant remained at Brookend until his death in 1613.<sup>68</sup> His own son and heir

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<sup>61</sup> For Restoration oaks, Scots pines, croquet, and the Richardsons, below, social hist. (1500–1800; since 1800). For dovecot and Greenwoods' house, below (other estates).

<sup>62</sup> *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 74–5, 78; cf. *Book of Fees*, II, 831; above (Chastleton manor).

<sup>63</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 729; *Cal. Pat.* 1327–30, 372; *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 221–2; below, local govt (manor cts).

<sup>64</sup> *VCH Oxon.* II, 67; *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIV (1), p. 417.

<sup>65</sup> *L&P Hen. VIII*, XVIII (1), p. 446, 540; XIX (1), p. 177.

<sup>66</sup> OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 113/1/6; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burials 1583, 1596; TNA, C 142/200/32.

<sup>67</sup> *Recusant Rolls 1592–3* (Cath. Rec. Soc. 18, 1916), 254; *1593–4* (Cath. Rec. Soc. 57, 1965), 122–3, 125.

<sup>68</sup> TNA, C 142/200/32; *ibid.* PROB 11/123/39; *Cal. Pat.* 1585–6, 73; 1587–8, 52; OHC, PAR60/1/R1/1, burial 1613. His father Edm., eldest son and heir of Edm. (d. 1583), had died in his father's lifetime: *Oxon. Visit.* 201; TNA, C 142/200/32; below, Cornwell, social hist.

Edmund came of age in 1614 but moved to Worcester before 1634,<sup>69</sup> when he divided the manor in two, and by 1737 both parts had evidently lost their manorial status.<sup>70</sup>

The half kept by Edmund (d. 1659) included two or three tenant farms (one of them named Widdowes'), which he sold piecemeal to George Greenwood of Chastleton between 1637 and 1642. Those remained part of the Greenwoods' larger landholding until its break-up in the 1780s.<sup>71</sup> The other half, comprising the manor house and demesne, was settled on Edmund's son Edmund (d. 1680) upon the latter's marriage, and despite legal challenges by George Greenwood and others<sup>72</sup> the younger Edmund retained it until 1657, when he sold it to George Hudson, a London haberdasher. Hudson sold it in 1669 to the London tobacco merchant John Jeffreys (d. 1688), who left it to his nephew Sir Jeffrey Jeffreys (d. 1709), MP for Brecon.<sup>73</sup> He was succeeded in turn by his sons Edward (d. 1740) and Nicholas (d. 1747), then by Nicholas's son Jeffrey (d. 1761), followed by Jeffrey's sister Elizabeth (d. 1779). She was wife of the lawyer and politician Charles Pratt, Baron Camden of Camden Place in Chislehurst (Kent), who was created Earl Camden in 1786, and owned 169 a. in the parish in 1789.<sup>74</sup>

Camden died in 1794, and in 1795 his trustees sold the estate to the grazier William Harbidge (d. 1802) of Todenham (Glos.). His son and heir William probably rebuilt the house, and in 1817 acquired neighbouring Little Compton manor (then Glos.).<sup>75</sup> On his death in 1843 his 202-a. Brookend estate (known as Upper Brookend or Brookend House farm) passed to his son William (d. 1852) and then to William's son William,<sup>76</sup> who until 1864 was a minor in the guardianship of his mother Elizabeth. He sold the estate in 1872 to W.S. Hitchman (d. 1881) of Kitebrook House, whose widow Harriot conveyed it in 1895 to Walter Henry Epps of Chipping Norton. Subsequent owners were Richard Charles Toop (1895–6), Charles Alcock (1896–1920), and Austin Albert Lane (1920–40), until in 1949 (following a succession of sales in the 1940s) Capt. Peter Aizlewood bought the estate, occupying it until

<sup>69</sup> TNA, PROB 11/123/39; *ibid.* C 142/341/39; OHC, E24/1/2D/10; GA, D1447/1/263a; *Oxon. Visit.* 263.

<sup>70</sup> OHC, E24/1/2D/12 and 23; TNA, C 7/565/59; below, local govt (manor cts).

<sup>71</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, burial 1659; *ibid.* E24/1/2D/13–21, 25–8; BL, Add. Ch. 46367; cf. Bodl. MS C17:49 (199). For the Greenwoods' estate (and Widdowes'), below (other estates).

<sup>72</sup> OHC, E24/1/2D/12, 23–4, 29, 31–2; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 1680; TNA, C 7/565/59.

<sup>73</sup> Kent Archives, U840/T217; TNA, C 7/565/59; *ibid.* PROB 11/393/270; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Jeffrey Jeffreys.

<sup>74</sup> Kent Archives, U840/T217; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Jeffrey Jeffreys, Chas Pratt; *ODNB*, s.v. Chas Pratt; TNA, PROB 11/756/230; PROB 11/865/412; OHC, Acc. 5428, Box 1/35; Northants. Archives, C 2336.

<sup>75</sup> *ODNB*, s.v. Chas Pratt; TNA, PROB 11/1384/290; *VCH Warws.* V, 51; below (manor ho.). For 1795 sale, *Sale Cat.*, *Brookend Ho.* (1872): copy in OHC.

<sup>76</sup> TNA, PROB 11/1990/33; OHC, tithe map and award; wall tablets in par. church.

his death in 2007. In 2008 it was bought by John Shelton, who retained Brookend House with 196 a. in 2024.<sup>77</sup>

### ***Manor House (Brookend House)***

Eynsham abbey may have maintained a manor house at Brookend from the 12th century, for holding manor courts and hosting visiting monks or officials, such as the cellarer, steward, and clerk who came in 1389.<sup>78</sup> Buildings in 1435 included a ruined dovecot and a fire-damaged chapel, and in 1445 the new tenant was to repair the hall and a barn, while ‘the manor place’ was mentioned in 1484.<sup>79</sup> The Ansleys occupied that or a successor from shortly before Edmund’s death in 1583 until the 1630s,<sup>80</sup> and in the 1660s it may have been the eight-hearth house on which Walter Greenwood was taxed, perhaps as George Hudson’s tenant.<sup>81</sup> By 1737 it was known as Brookend House or Brookend Place.<sup>82</sup> The house stood presumably on the site of the present-day Brookend House, which perhaps re-uses pre-existing cellars and incorporates stonework from an earlier structure, including apparently in-situ mullioned windows in the west front, and fragments of a reset scratch-dial dated 1660 on the north.<sup>83</sup>

The house was otherwise substantially rebuilt probably for the second William Harbidge, who moved from Todenham between 1810 and 1814 and remained at Brookend until his death in 1843. In its present form it is a rectangular neo-classical building of three storeys (facing south), with limestone ashlar walls to the front, regularly coursed and dressed limestone rubble walls to the sides and rear, and a hipped Welsh-slate roof which forms an E-plan, with roof valleys in between. The three-bay south entrance front features sash windows (the top-floor ones of smaller size) and a central stone porch, with fluted Doric columns and a moulded entablature. Inside is a stone-flagged central entrance hall with an open-well staircase.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>77</sup> G. Stapleton, ‘History of Brookend’ (undated typescript [c.2000] at Brookend Ho., 2023); OHC, DV/X/37; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 22 May 1895; info. (2024) from John Shelton. For Hitchman, below (other estates).

<sup>78</sup> T. Lloyd, ‘Some documentary sidelights on the deserted Oxfordshire village of Brookend’, *Oxoniensia* 29/30 (1964/5), 127; BL, Harl. Roll B1.

<sup>79</sup> BL, Harl. Rolls B1, cts May 1435, Feb. 1437; B11, ct Oct. 1445 (*situm manerii*); B13, ct Sept. 1484 (‘le maner place’); below, econ. hist. (medieval); relig. hist. (Middle Ages).

<sup>80</sup> Kent Archives, U840/T217; above; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

<sup>81</sup> TNA, E 179/255/4; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 186. Alternatively, that was Widdowes’ farmho.: below (other estates).

<sup>82</sup> Kent Archives, U840/T217.

<sup>83</sup> Inspected by the author in Nov. 2023 by kind permission of the Sheltons.

<sup>84</sup> NHLE, no. 1053338; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 251 (both suggesting a late 18th-cent. date, for which there is no obvious context); Stapleton, ‘Hist. of Brookend’; OHC, PAR60/10/A/1, f. 58, also reciting a mistaken tradition that Judge Jeffreys (Geo. Jeffreys, Baron Jeffreys, d. 1689) had once owned it: cf. Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d 244, p. 740.



Brookend House: south front (left) and reset scratch-dial dated 1660 (right). By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Shelton.

## Other Estates

### *Osney Abbey and Greenwood/Fothergill Estate*

Endowments given to Osney abbey at its foundation c.1129 included Chastleton church, whose small endowment was increased at its rededication c.1180 by the gift of a house and croft, specified meadow, and 2 a. of arable. The abbey's appropriation of the church was formalized c.1225, when a meagre vicarage was endowed, but in 1459 the vicars were replaced by rectors to whom the bulk of the church income was restored, save for a share of tithes and a 40s. annual pension payable to the abbey.<sup>85</sup>

The rest of the abbey's Chastleton estate derived from separate grants from its lords, apparently unconnected with the church.<sup>86</sup> Around 1200 the lord Roger son of Bardulf gave 6 a. in return for his burial at the abbey, and in 1276 Bardulf son of Roger gave two houses and two yardlands containing 90 acres.<sup>87</sup> By 1279 the abbey held three yardlands of Chastleton manor in perpetuity,<sup>88</sup> which in 1509 were let as a single farm (for 30s. a year) to Thomas Fletcher (fl. 1535).<sup>89</sup> Following the abbey's dissolution in 1539 the Crown granted the farm in 1541 to Leonard (later Sir Leonard) Chamberlain of Shirburn,<sup>90</sup> who probably sold it to Fletcher's son William (d. 1557).<sup>91</sup> William's son Henry sold it in 1571 to the former

<sup>85</sup> Below, relig. hist. (glebe, tithes, and vicarage).

<sup>86</sup> For another 1 $\frac{1}{3}$  hides possibly given to the abbey at its foundation, but apparently later lost, above (Chastleton manor: to 1483).

<sup>87</sup> *Oseney Cart.* IV, pp. 326.

<sup>88</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 729.

<sup>89</sup> *Oseney Cart.* VI, pp. 231, 261–2; *Valor Eccl.* II, 218.

<sup>90</sup> *VCH Oxon.* II, 92–3; *L&P Hen.* VIII, XVI, p. 423; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Sir Leon. Chamberlain.

<sup>91</sup> TNA, C 142/112/136; *Cal. Pat.* 1560–3, 378. Chamberlain sold his former Osney abbey estate in Hanborough to Wm Fletcher in 1546: *VCH Oxon.* XII, 165.



rector of Chastleton Christopher Mitchell, who remained in the parish until his death in 1590, and who left the estate and advowson to his great nephew George Greenwood, a minor who evidently lived with Mitchell in the house belonging to the estate.<sup>92</sup>

Greenwood, the son of a recusant Oxford lawyer, made a settlement of the estate in 1607 upon his marriage to Elizabeth Jones (d. 1671), a daughter of the lord of Chastleton.<sup>93</sup> Between 1637 and 1642 he added a number of farms in Brookend, and following his death in 1650 his greatly enlarged estate passed successively to his son George (d. 1681) and grandson Thomas (d. 1717).<sup>94</sup> A farm called Widdowes' descended separately to the first George's younger son Walter (d. 1671) and his descendants, until conveyed to Thomas in 1715.<sup>95</sup> Thomas was succeeded by his own son Thomas (d. 1749), whose Chastleton estate covered more than 500 a. in 1730,<sup>96</sup> and under his will it passed successively to his widow Milcah (d. 1753), to his sister Ellen Biggs (d. 1767), the lady of Evenlode manor and widow of the Chastleton rector Thomas Griffith Biggs, and to Ellen's grandson and heir Thomas Fothergill.<sup>97</sup>

Fothergill, who owned 588 a. in Chastleton in 1773,<sup>98</sup> broke up the estate in 1786, when three holdings totalling c.180 a. were sold to the lord of Chastleton John Jones. The sale included the principal house,<sup>99</sup> which in 1787 was settled on John's brother and eventual heir Arthur Jones, who lived there until 1813.<sup>100</sup> Fothergill's three remaining Chastleton farms (totalling 367 a.) were bought in 1786 by Henry Zachariah Jervis of Cheswardine (Salop.),<sup>101</sup> who in 1787 (together with John Jones) acquired a 21-year lease of the tithes of the former Fothergill estate.<sup>102</sup> Jervis sold just under half his estate (principally the later Grove and Durham's farms) to Jones in 1788,<sup>103</sup> dividing the rest (197 a. known as Banwell's and Slatter's) into two new holdings which in 1790 were bought by Richard Davis of Kitebrook and Patience Adams respectively.<sup>104</sup>

<sup>92</sup> OHC, E24/1/2D/1–2; TNA, PROB 11/75/175; below, relig. hist. (advowson; Reformn to 1789). Mitchell granted Greenwood reversion of the house and lands in 1588: OHC, E24/1/2D/3; *Cal. Pat.* 1589–90, 36.

<sup>93</sup> *Oxon. Visit.* 256; *Oxon. Visit.* 1669–75, 49; OHC, E24/1/3D/1–4; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 1671. For his parents, below, relig. hist. (Reformn to 1789).

<sup>94</sup> Above (Brookend); *Oxon. Visit.* 1669–75, 49–50; TNA, PROB 11/216/312; OHC, E24/1/3D/5–21.

<sup>95</sup> *Oxon. Visit.* 1669–75, 49; OHC, E24/1/2D/33–43; TNA, PROB 11/337/454; PROB 11/425/227.

<sup>96</sup> OHC, par. reg. transcript, burials 1717, 1749; TNA, PROB 11/559/244; Bodl. MS C17:49 (199).

<sup>97</sup> TNA, PROB 11/776/233; PROB 11/805/105; PROB 11/934/115; wall tablets in church. For T.G. Biggs, below, relig. hist. (since 1789). Ellen's daughter and heir Ellen Hallifax (Fothergill's mother by her first marriage) had died in 1765: TNA, PROB 11/910/283; wall tablet in church.

<sup>98</sup> GA, D610/Z1.

<sup>99</sup> Northants. Archives, C 2408; OHC, E24/2/2D/23; E24/1/M/1; E24/1/C/4; *ibid.* QSD/L/70.

<sup>100</sup> OHC, E24/1/3D/32; above (Chastleton manor); below, social hist. (1500–1800).

<sup>101</sup> Northants. Archives, C 2408; OHC, QSD/L/70.

<sup>102</sup> OHC, E24/1/6D/20.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.* E24/1/E/6; E24/1/M/2; E24/1/C/5; *ibid.* QSD/L/70.

<sup>104</sup> Northants. Archives, C 2342–50; TNA, PROB 11/1232/142. For their other possessions, below (minor estates).

The house occupied by Christopher Mitchell and by most subsequent owners of the estate stood almost opposite the church on the south side of the lane, and was presumably a successor to the Osney abbey farmhouse mentioned in 1509. In the 1660s (when it was the parish's largest dwelling after Chastleton House) it was taxed on 11 hearths,<sup>105</sup> and was called a mansion in 1681 and a 'good seat' c.1720.<sup>106</sup> In 1730 an L-plan house fronted directly onto the lane, with an adjacent garden and orchard and outbuildings arranged around a yard, including a circular building that was presumably a dovecot.<sup>107</sup> Though remodelled and redecorated in the late 1780s for Arthur Jones and his new wife,<sup>108</sup> the house was divided into cottages after 1813 (when the Joneses moved to Chastleton House), and was demolished soon after 1845, together with all but one of its outbuildings.<sup>109</sup> The sole survivor was a replacement dovecot built on a nearby site for Thomas Fothergill in 1762, and retained as an eyecatcher set amid parkland. Built on a square plan, and constructed of limestone rubble with ashlar dressings, its stone-slate roof has a wooden cupola and four gables containing oval openings, supported on open segmental arches.<sup>110</sup>



The dovecot erected for Thomas Fothergill in 1762 (left) and the site of the Greenwoods' mansion house (below) in parkland opposite the church and Chastleton House.



<sup>105</sup> TNA, E 179/255/4; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 186.

<sup>106</sup> OHC, E24/1/3D/10; *Par. Colln*, I, 84.

<sup>107</sup> Bodl. MS C17:49 (199).

<sup>108</sup> OHC, E24/1/F6/4–5; below, social hist. (1500–1800).

<sup>109</sup> M. Dickins, *A History of Chastleton, Oxfordshire* (1938), 63; cf. OHC, tithe map; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XIII.8 (1885 edn).

<sup>110</sup> Inscription 'Thomas Fothergill esq June ye 2 1762' on keystone; NHLE, no. 1284029; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 250–1.

## Kitebrook

An estate called Kitebrook passed through the Davis and Bartlett families in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and by 1838 (when it was sold in lots) covered c.100 a. in Chastleton and Little Compton.<sup>111</sup> A part (including 34 a. in Chastleton) was bought in 1839 by the Chipping Norton wine merchant, maltster, and future brewer William Simkins Hitchman, who built the present Kitebrook House as his country residence, and in 1872 acquired the adjacent Brookend House or Upper Brookend farm, which he left to his widow Harriot.<sup>112</sup> Following Hitchman's death in 1881 Kitebrook itself passed to his son Alfred William Spence Hitchman, who in 1887 acquired the 66-a. Brookend farm known later as Kitebrook End, and who in 1890 sold Kitebrook House and 238 a. in Chastleton and Little Compton to Frederic Hubert Freer (d. 1897).<sup>113</sup> In 1919 Freer's trustees conveyed the 250-a. estate to Ethel Dugdale (née Innes), the wife of Arthur Dugdale (d. 1941) of Sezincote House (Glos.). Ethel's trustees broke it up following her death in 1949, when only 115 a. remained,<sup>114</sup> and from 1959 Kitebrook House accommodated a preparatory school, which remained open in 2024.<sup>115</sup>



The south front of Kitebrook House in the 1920s or 1930s, following its enlargement for F.H. Freer in 1891. Source: OHC, POX0560913.

<sup>111</sup> Northants. Archives, C 2343–4; OHC, QSD/L/70; *Oxf. Jnl*, 2 June 1838; GA, D4084/Box28/4.

<sup>112</sup> GA, D4084/Box28/4; OHC, tithe map and award; above (Brookend); *VCH Oxon.* XXI (forthcoming, Chipping Norton); below.

<sup>113</sup> *Liverpool Daily Post*, 29 July 1881; GA, D4084/Box28/4; *Evesham Standard*, 27 Mar. 1897.

<sup>114</sup> GA, D4084/Box28/4; D4084/Box50/9; *Tewkesbury Register*, 9 and 30 July 1949.

<sup>115</sup> Below, social hist. (educ.).

The first Kitebrook House was perhaps built for Richard Davis 'of Kitebrook' soon after 1780, and was later occupied by the Bartletts. Described as a 'respectable' gentleman's residence, it was demolished c.1840. Its successor, on or near the same site close to the Worcester road and the Little Compton boundary,<sup>116</sup> was built by Hitchman in or before 1849,<sup>117</sup> and is a medium-sized two-storeyed country house in neo-classical style, constructed of limestone ashlar with sash windows, a hipped Welsh-slate roof, and a dentil eaves cornice. Originally of four or five bays, with a north-facing Doric porch and a west service wing, the house was almost doubled in size for F.H. Freer in 1891, its ten-bay south (garden) front featuring a wooden Doric loggia set between two full-height canted bays. An adjacent glass greenhouse was damaged by hail in 1851, and a large conservatory accessible from the drawing room at the house's east end was extant by 1881, along with stables (surmounted by a cupola) and an entrance lodge. Both of those are located just over the parish boundary in Little Compton, where an associated cottage pair is dated 1891.<sup>118</sup>

### **Minor Estates**

Some small medieval freeholds belonging to the barony of Hook Norton, and often said to be in Cornwell, seem to have actually lain in what is now Chastleton, one of 1½ yardlands (held by members of the Granger family as 1/10 knight's fee) being certainly said to be in Chastleton in 1242.<sup>119</sup> A separate freehold, comprising a hide in Chastleton, was held directly from the lord of Hook Norton (also as 1/10 knight's fee) by Henry of Fretherne in 1279 and 1302, and passed by 1346 to William of Fretherne.<sup>120</sup> Thomas Fretherne, of Moreton-in-Marsh (Glos.), sold it to the lord of Chastleton Sir William Wilcotes and his wife Elizabeth in 1395, when it included a house, a ploughland, 20 a. of meadow, and 20 a. of pasture in 'Foukenend', and thereafter it descended with Chastleton manor.<sup>121</sup>

<sup>116</sup> GA, D4084/Box28/4; *Oxf. Jnl*, 13 Jan. 1838 ('Kitebrook House, in this county'); *Oxf. Chron.* 26 May 1838 ('respectable ... with all suitable domestic offices'). Cf. GA, D4084/Box28/4 (1780 map, no house present); Bodl. MS C17:49 (199) (house added to 1730 map probably c.1790); OHC, tithe map (no house present in 1842).

<sup>117</sup> I. Hilton (ed.), *The Chastleton Diaries: Change and Continuity in the Nineteenth Century* (2011), 57, mentioning Hitchman's 'new house'.

<sup>118</sup> NHLE, no. 1053337; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 251–2; *Banbury Guardian*, 26 June 1851 (greenho.); *Oxon. Weekly News*, 3 Aug. 1881; TNA, RG 12/1179 (uninhabited and 'rebuilding' in 1891); *Evesham Standard*, 27 Mar. 1897. Cf. OS Maps 1:2500, Oxon. XIII.4 (1882–1921 edns).

<sup>119</sup> *Book of Fees*, II, 827, 837; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* IX, 183; XI, 353; *Cal. Close* 1364–9, 2. For Adam Granger ('de Grang', 'de la Graunge'), cf. *Rot. Hund.* II, 729; *Oxon. Fines*, p. 223.

<sup>120</sup> *Rot. Hund.* II, 729 (Hen. 'de Twemlad'); *Feudal Aids*, IV, 161, 184. 'Twemlad' is probably an error for 'Fremlad', Framilode ('Fremlad' in 1326) being in Fretherne parish: A.H. Smith, *The Place-Names of Gloucestershire* (1964), II, 179.

<sup>121</sup> TNA, CP 25/1/191/24, no. 48; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIX, pp. 317–18; XXVI, p. 231; *Cal. Close* 1409–13, 141. For 'Foukenend', above, landscape etc. (settlement).

The 18th-century break-up of Brookend manor and of the Greenwood estate left landownership in Brookend relatively fragmented, although in 1790 the 243-a. Middle Brookend farm was acquired by Patience Adams (d. 1793), from whom it descended to his son James (d. 1832) and to James's son George, both rectors of Chastleton. George sold it in 1851 to the Revd Francis Rice,<sup>122</sup> vicar of Fairford (Glos.) and the future 5th Baron Dynevor, who also bought Lower Brookend farm (comprising 118 a. in Chastleton and Evenlode) from Richard Bartlett in 1854. Lord Dynevor retained both farms until his death in 1878,<sup>123</sup> after which they again descended separately.<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> OHC, QSD/L/70; *ibid.* tithe award and map; *Sale Cat., Middle Brookend Farm* (1849): copy in Northants. Archives, C 2292; GA, D674/b/P70. For the Adamses, below, *relig. hist.*

<sup>123</sup> *Complete Peerage*, IV, 365; *Oxf. Jnl*, 29 July 1854; OHC, Acc. 5428, Box 42/6a; GA, D4084/Box9/14.

<sup>124</sup> OHC, Acc. 5428, Box. 43/61–2; *Sale Cat., Middle Brookend Farm* (1885): copy in *ibid.* Acc. 5428, Box 34/7b; *ibid.* DV/X/37; TNA, MAF 32/910/81; GA, D4084/Box9/14; *Sale Cat., Lower Brookend Farm* (1920): copy in *ibid.* D2299/2168.